registerred with the Cashew Corporation of India within 7 days of its execution.

Sea Bird Project at Karwar

811. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests have given a conditional clearance to the Sea Bird Naval Base Project at Karwar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the work has been commenced on the project;

(c) the total amount required for the above project and time scheduled fixed for its completion; and

(d) the amount spent so far towards rehabilitation of displaced families due to the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work relating to Phase I of the Project can commence only after the implications of the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance have been examined and approval of the Government to the revised cost of the Project obtained.

(c) The cost estimates for Phase I works of the Project are under examination. These works are expected to be completed in a time frame of 10 years form the date of their commencement, subject to the availability of funds.

(d) Out of the lumpsum Rehabilitation Grant of Rs. 9.00 crores paid to the State Government, they are reported to have so far spent Rs. 2.12 crores (approx) towards the rehabilitation of the displaced families.

Setting up of Cashew Board in Kerala

812. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4072 on August 23, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the Union Government have since taken any decision to set up a Cashew Board in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the total quantity of cashewnut produced in Kerala during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). It has been decided not to set up a Cashew Board.

(c) Cashewnut produced in Kerala during the las three years is given below:-

Year	*Production (MT)*
1988-89	1,36,900
1989-90	1,39,500
1990-91	1,42,100

Branches of Indian Banks in Kathmandu

813. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the State Bank of India and other public Sector Banks to set up their branches in Kathmandu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there is no proposal under their consideration for allowing State Bank of India or other public sector banks to set up branches in Kathmandu.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Pepper Prices

814. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that prices of Pepper is falling in open market;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stops the fall in the prices;

(c) whether the Government have considered the demand of the pepper growers to set minimum price of pepper; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline in the prices of black pepper since October 1991.

(b) As a short terms measure, Government has announced suspension of cess on exports of pepper to GCA countries till 31st March 1992.

(c) and (d). A major factor in the decline of pepper prices has been the international oversupply situation. In such a situation, fixing support price by a single nation will not help.

[*Translation*]

Export of Meat to Indonesia

815. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of meat per month exported to Indonesia during 1990–91;

(b) whether Indonesia have since decided not to import meat from India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the effect of this decision on the related industries in the country and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e). Indonesia does not import meat from India. No meat was exported to Indonesia during 1990–91. Indonesia has made no change in this policy subsequently.

[*English*]

Procurement of Natural Rubber

816. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

the grade-wise quantity of natural rubber procured by State Trading Corporation in the year 1991 from the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): During the year 1991 STC procured following grade-wise quantities of natural rubber from the domestic market:-